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BASUTOLAND

Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER

1944

Mazenod Institute, P.O. Maseru, Basutoland.

Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 1944.

SECTION I.

REVIEW.

1. ORGANIZATION:

As a result of the wartime shortage of staff, and the overlapping which inevitably takes place when the staff of a department is divided into a number of sections, it was found desirable to amalgamate the work of the three Sections, namely, Agriculture, Livestock and Soil Conservation.

Each District Agricultural and Livestock Officer, with the assistance of an adequate staff of Basuto Demonstrators, Stock Inspectors, Anti-Erosion men and Tree Supervisors, is responsible for all the work of the Department being carried out in his district. This organization has been proved sound and has enabled the Department to maintain the work under way and greatly to increase the scope.

2. STAFF:

The newly created posts of Anti-Erosion Officer and Senior Agricultural and Livestock Officers were filled respectively by the promotion of Messrs. Collett, Hensley and Peachey.

ADMINISTRATIVE

The Field Staff now consists of:-

European:

1 Director of Agriculture,
1 Principal Veterinary Officer,
1 Senior Agricultural Officer,
1 Anti-Erosion Officer,
2 Senior Agricultural and Livestock Officers,
9 Agricultural and Livestock Officers,
5 Anti-Erosion Foremen,
1 Mechanic.

African:

2 Veterinary Assistants,

3 Agricultural & Livestock Assistants,
38 Demonstrators,
6 Stock Inspectors,
59 Assistant Stock Inspectors.

In addition there are a large number of temporary Assistant Demonstrators and temporary Tree Supervisors employed.

A considerable part of the time of the Agricultural Staff has, of necessity, been taken up in administering war time controls - maize control being the most exacting.

3. WEATHER CONDITION:

Exceptionally heavy rains began in October and continued, with little break, until the end of January. Much of the land in the lowlands became water-logged, which prevented ploughing and the construction of anti-erosion contour banks. Grazing, however, was plentiful, and all stock rapidly recovered condition after the rigours of the 1943 winter.

From February onwards, the day temperatures were high and the nights cold, only spasmodic showers occurring. These conditions, experienced at the time when crops in the lowlands were maturing, sadly reduced yields. The winter months were dry and cold, and up to 24° of frost were registered. The average rainfall for the whole Territory was 34.89 inches.

4. POLICY:

The work of the Department has been concentrated on:

(a) increased crop production by raising the fertility of the soil and employing better methods of cultivation,
(b) the conservation of the soil,
(c) improved management of grazing land,
(d) village tree planting,
(e) Livestock improvement.

With the exception of maize, the Territory is self supporting in food stuffs, and considerable quantities of wheat and peas, and numbers of livestock, are exported. The climatic conditions necessary for the production of maize are only to be found in the lowlands. In an endeavour to supply the local requirements of this food, all the arable land has been ploughed for many years and little or no organic matter has been returned to the soil. The fertility of the lowland soil has, therefore, been largely lost, and the introduction of methods for its increase and maintenance are in the forefront of the programme.

A manuring campaign was inaugurated during the year with the object of persuading each family to manure, in rotation, one quarter of its fields each year.

In order to assist the people to get manure to the land scotch carts were provided by Government for loan to individuals. The

campaign has already achieved considerable success, and over 40,000 bags of kraal manure have been transported to the land and ploughed in during the winter season.

Two small farms of 14 acres each have been established at Maseru and Mohales Hoek, and on these farms proper methods of land management, both arable and grass, are being demonstrated.

Although the country is not therectically over-stocked, large hillside areas have become denuded through uncontrolled grazing and maldistribution of stock. In a climate such as that experienced in Basutoland, with its spasmodic, torrential rains followed by periods of drought, it is essential that the hillsides should be properly protected with a good cover of grass. The rush of water off denuded slopes has already led to devastation and the gullying of the arable lands on the flats below.

With the exception of the high mountain cattle post areas, where individually owned flocks and herds graze the area surrounding the cattle posts, the grazing attached to villages is communal and under the control of the local Chief or Headman.

A considerable amount of propaganda work has been carried out to persuade the Chiefs and the people to adopt rotational grazing on the beaconing system, and already in a few areas grazing is controlled and rotated.

5. EXPERIMENTAL WORK:

Experimental work in the past has been confined largely to wheat selection and breeding; the aim being to produce a cross between Talberg and Canadian varieties, which will reproduce the strong growing, heavy yielding and disease resisting capabilities of the former, combined with the good milling qualities of the latter. Twenty-five promising selections of the F4 generation have been made.

Other experimental work under way includes grazing experiments; soya bean selections; green manuring; seed potato production; catch crops after winter wheat; sorghum variety trials; maize variety trials; wheat variety trials; Pyrethrum; establishment of grass leys; crop rotations and manurial trials.

SECTION II.

AGRICULTURE.

1. MAIZE AND KAFFIR CORN:

These crops in the foothills and mountains were better than they had been for some years. In the Lowlands they varied from district to district. In the Quthing district they were bad, and in the Leribe district worse than they had been for several years. In the remaining parts of the Territory, however, these crops were considerably better than last year, although they suffered from water-logging and lack of cultivation and many more lands than usual, especially in the northern district, failed to ripen before the advent of the frost.

2. WHEAT:

The mountain wheat crop was one of the best harvested for some years.

In the lowlands the crop was fair. A much larger acreage than usual was sown, but suffered from water-logging and rust.

3. BEANS:

The bean crop was only fair. Many wheat lands were sown with a catch crop of beans.

4. PEAS:

A larger acreage than usual was planted and a heavy crop was produced. Very high prices have again been obtained for peas. Good samples have been disposed of easily for about 40/- a bag.

5. BARLEY:

Excellent crops were grown in the mountain districts.

6. APPROXIMATE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION FOR 1944 AND PRECEDING YEARS.

Crop.	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Maize	873,750	758,835	691,542	1,005,268	527,634	720.000	700,000
Sorghum	197,812	164,129	139,965	274,156	164,493	324,000	300,000
Wheat	257,812	364,802	398,861	394,688	182,187	360,000	416,000
Peas, Beans & other crops	109,218	156,562	133.353	73.593	36,796	40,000	56,000

Remarks:- These crop returns are given in bags of 200lbs.

7. METHODS ADOPTED TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION:

The chief methods adopted were:-

(a) The appointment of two Assistant Demonstrators for each Agricultural Demonstrator and the provision of the necessary agricultural implements for these men.
(b) Continued propaganda by all members of the Agricultural Department to encourage better ploughing and cultivation of crops.
(c) Manuring the land in rotation with kraal manure.
(d) The fertilizing of worn out land with phosphates as a temporary expedient during the war period.
(e) The rotation of crops and the increase of the acreage under leguminous crops the residues being ploughed under.

8. REPORT ON GENERAL DEMONSTRATION WORK CARRIED OUT IN THE TERRITORY DURING 1943-44:

The results of the Agricultural Demonstration Work, when compared with most of the native grown crops, were again outstanding, although the averages yeild per acre was only fair.

The Agricultural Demonstrators were mainly employed on work of national importance, such as increased food production, village tree planting and the surveying of grass strips to prevent erosion on sloping lands.

Competitions were again held for the best cultivated fields of spring and autumn sown crops. There were 502 entries in the various demonstration centres. £35 was expended on prize money.

RESULTS OF DEMONSTRATION WORK FOR THE YEAR 1943-44.

	DEMONSTRATION PLOTS			NATIVE WORKED CHECK PLOTS		
Crop.	No. of Plots	Acreage	Yield per acre in bags of 200 lbs.	No. of Plots	Acreage	Yield per acre in bags of 200 lbs.
Wheat	122	391.75	2.4	141	465.5	1.4
Maize	141	447	3.8	155	451	1.6
Sorghum	21	65	3	49	147.75	1.1
Peas	1	1	8			
Soya Beans	4	3.75	2			

9. LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATIONS:

During the period under review, 984 lectures were given chiefly on the Village Tree Planting Scheme, Grass Stripping on the Contour to Prevent Erosion on Sloping land and on the best methods to adopt to increase Food Production. 41,830 natives attended these lectures.

10. DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE VALUE OF MANURING:

A number of manurial trials were carried out by Agricultural Demonstrators.

(See Table on next page).

11. REPORT ON THE GOVERNMENT SCHEME FOR THE SUPPLY OF SUPERPHOSPHATE AND OTHER PHOSPHATIC FERTILIZERS TO NATIVE FARMERS, AT COST PRICE:

The sale of fertilizer is controlled in the Union, and supplies of superphosphate are very limited. Arrangements were made, however, to obtain 2,340 bags of Kalphos (a ground local phosphatic rock) at a landed cost of approximately 9/-0d. per bag. The Government is subsidizing the sale of this fertilizer at 4/6d. per bag, to those natives who are eager to employ better agricultural methods. 920 bags have already been disposed of. A total of 390 bags of superphosphates and Seychelles guano was purchased by native farmers during the season 1943-44, from stocks held by the Government.

12. SEED ISSUES:

After consideration it was decided that, as far as possible, Marquis and other varieties of imported Canadian wheats should be issued in the foothills and mountain districts, and that Wolkoren and Red Egyptian should be grown in the Lowlands. The following were the seed issues in the foothills and mountain districts during the season 1943-44:-

599 bags Marquis
60 " Ceres
48 " Red Bobs
36 " Reliance
21 " Garnet
16 " Reward

No record of the crop reaped from these issues is available, but the amounts of seed returned for re-issue in 1944-45 are given below. Several of these wheats, owing to a very wet season, were attacked by rust.

The following varieties of wheat were returned for re-issue during the 1944-45 season:-

541 bags Marquis
49 " Ceres
39 " Red Bobs
28 " Reliance
12 " Garnet
24 " Reward.

179 bags of Wolkoren and 57 bags of Red Egyptian were

COMPARATIVE MANURIAL TRIALS RES

(The results of these trials are worked out to the near

Crop	Check Plots No Manure				Super phosphate				Kraa	
	Number of plots	Acreage	Amount of fertilizer per acre	Bags per acre harvested.	Number of plots	Acreage	Amount of fertilizer per acre	Bags per acre harvested.	Number of plots	Acreage
Maize	23	23	Nil	2	16	16	200 lbs.	4·5	14	65
			Nil						1	1

half bag and given in bags of grain of 200 lbs.)

...ure	Seychelles Guano				Lisu Ash				
Bags per acre harvested	Number of Plots	Acreage	Amount of fertilizer per acre.	Bags per acre harvested	Number of plots	Acreage	Amount of fertilizer per acre	Bags per acre harvested.	
5	7	7	200 lbs.	5	14	64	30 bags	4·5	
10									

150 fig trees
100 quince trees

300 named varieties, mostly early peaches, were bought on behalf of Native Gardeners.

14. MARKETS FOR NATIVE PRODUCE:

The opening of markets, where natives can dispose of their surplus vegetable and other produce, have proved a very useful innovation. These markets are well patronised.

15. AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS:

There are at present 206 Associations in the Territory, these consists of:-

26 Men's Associations.
67 Women's Associations.
113 Mixed Associations.

The combined membership is 6,306, as against 4,572 last year. More interest has been taken in agricultural co-operation during the past year. The Women's and mixed Associations are of great assistance to Agricultural Officers in helping to further the Government's schemes, viz. Increased Food Production, Vegetable Gardening, etc.

16. AGRICULTURAL SHOWS:

Four Agricultural Shows were held during the year, namely at Mokema, Mount Moorosi, Mohlanapeng and a combined show at Qachas Nek with Seforong. These shows were organized by the Agricultural Associations of the districts, but the members were advised and helped by the Agricultural Officers and Demonstrators. Generally speaking, the Produce, Vegetables and Women's Work Sections were good, but the Stock Classes were disappointing except at Mokema where the Horse Section was good.

17. RODENT DESTRUCTION:

In the Lowland districts rodents are on the increase. Large quantities of poisoned wheat have been issued by the Medical Department, and the Agricultural Department is co-operating in the destruction of these vermin. House rats and mice have greatly increased during the past year and have become a menace to the grain stored in the native houses.

18. INCIDENCE OF INSECT PESTS:

No swarms of Brown or Red Winged Locusts invaded the Territory.

The Elegant Grasshopper, which in past years often caused great damage to gardens and fruit trees, was not nearly as prevalent.

No damage was done by the Army Worm to crops.

Where clean cultivation was not practised, the cutworm did great damage to vegetable gardens and early planted crops.

In some districts of Basutoland great damage was done by the Maize Stalk Borer.

Aphis was very prevalent and was responsible for more damage to fruit trees, vegetable crops, kaffir corn and wheat, than usual.

Grain weevil appears to have been responsible for a great deal of damage to grain, especially as this pest has now made its appearance in the higher localities of the country.

19. VILLAGE AND RESERVE TREE PLANTING:

Tree planting on a large scale in the Territory is one of the most important works undertaken by the Department. The future prosperity of the country will depend largely on tree planting, as trees will provide fuel for the natives, thus saving manure which is the life-blood of the country and which is so badly needed to replenish the fertility of the worn out soil.

The Village Tree Planting Campaign was started in November, 1942, and remarkable progress has been made. The total number of trees planted, from the commencement of the scheme up to the 30th September, 1944, is approximately 15,048,843, consisting of White Poplars, Weeping Willows and Wattles.

Tree planting on Government Reserves is being carried out by paid labour. 367,239 trees have been planted on the Reserves since the Scheme was started in September, 1942. These consist chiefly of white Poplars, Willows, Wattles, Pinus insignis, Halepensis, Pinaster, Eucalyptus, Sideroxylon and Cedrus deodara.

SECTION III.

LIVESTOCK AND VETERINARY..

1. ECONOMIC ASPECT:

Exporters of slaughter stock continued to enjoy the same freedom as last year. Despite the new and comprehensive meat-control scheme which was drawn up by the Union Government, and which came into operation on 10th May, 1944, prices paid for slaughter stock for export were well maintained and, in fact, advanced in some cases. For livestock sale returns vide Para. 6.

2. STATISTICAL REVIEW:

No census of livestock was taken during the year. Compared with 1943, cattle exports decreased by 8,264 units, while

sheep exports decreased by 2,086 units. There was an increase in the case of sheep imports of 3,086 units and a decrease in the case of cattle imports of 5,470 units. Vaccines to prevent the common diseases of livestock, particularly Quarter Evil, were in good demand. There were also many requests for vaccines to prevent poultry diseases, particularly Fowl Typhoid. For statistics vide para. 8.

3. ANIMAL HEALTH:

This remained about normal, although severe mortality from horse-sickness was recorded in the Butha Buthe area. Blue Tongue was also rife in certain areas.

4. DISEASE CONTROL:

Anthrax: One outbreak was notified, involving the death of five head of cattle and one pig. Early detection and prompt preventive measures reduced the mortality to a minimum.
Equine Mange: The incidence of this disease is still in the ascendent.
Anaplasmosis: As a result of the extensive preventive inoculations carried out in previous years, this disease appears to be on the down grade.
Horse-sickness: Fifty horses died in one valley in the Butha Buthe area. The disease appeared elsewhere but to no great extent.
Fowl Typhoid: The initial mortality from this disease was high. Extensive inoculations were carried out and the mortality ceased.

5. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY:

Small Stock:

The poundage of wool classed under official supervision showed a decrease of 481,247 lbs. over the previous year. This decrease was due to the fact that in three districts the entire clip was subjected to simple classing by the owners themselves.

The total poundage of wool and mohair exported during the year was 8,751,107 lbs. and 1,445,083 lbs. respectively. This represents a decrease in the case of wool compared with the previous year of 1.138,054 lbs, and in the case of mohair an increase of 471,043 lbs.

Generally speaking, the prices realised for wool and mohair were maintained at satisfactory and remunerative levels. The following table summarises the wool classing position during the last three seasons: —

	1941/42	1942/43	1943/44
No. of sheep shorn under official supervision	234,382	245,900	178,177
Poundage of wool	1,323,338	1,439,674	958,427
Average poundage per sheep	5.7	5.85	5.4
Percentage of combing wool	27.94	34.62	34.03
Percentage of short wool	13.61	16.62	20.12
Percentage of XM wool	18.62	13.93	10.76
Percentage of outsorts	39.63	34.83	35.09

The Average prices for wool and mohair were: —

	Wool.	Simply classed	Unclassed
C. 1. Government classed	11 to 12d.	Longs — 8½-9d.	Longs — 8d.
C. 2. " "	10 to 10½d.	Shorts — 7½d.	Shorts — 7d.
L. L. " "	10½ to 11d.		
S. S. " "	8½d.	X. M. — 6d.	C. & C. — 4d.
S. " "	7 to 7½d.		
L. " "	7½d.	B. P. — 5d.	
X. M. " "	6d.	Lox — 3d.	
C. B. P. " "	6 to 6½d.		
B. P. " "	5½ to 6d.		
B. K. S. " "	5½ to 6d.		
Lox " "	3d.		

Mohair.
Longs — 9-9½d. Shorts — 4d.
Mediums — 7d. Kempy — 3d.

N. B. The reduction in the average weight of wool per sheep is attributable to the abnormally heavy spring and early summer rainfall. The wool as a result was washed clean of dust, dirt and a fair percentage of yolk.

During the current financial year 528 Marino rams were introduced from the Union by the Government for resale to African farmers, making a total of 5,689 rams introduced since the inception of the Sheep Improvement Scheme in 1935. Many scores of rams were also introduced by private enterprise. Despite the great demand for slaughter sheep in the Union, at steadily soaring prices, very few owners took advantage of the rising market; indeed the Basuto are generally loath to part with their sheep, whatever the inducemet.

Cattle:

No cattle census was taken during the year. Despite the

sparseness of maize stover and veld grazing, cattle wintered remarkably well due to the absence of rain and heavy snow. Many undesirable bulls were climinated by:-

(a) castration by Officers of the Department,
(b) castration by owners themselves,
(c) sale by Public Auction to Union Butchers, under the Livestock Sale Scheme (the total number under this head was 390),
(d) exported by traders and others for slaughter purposes in the Union.

The total number of bulls purchased by the Government for the cattle improvement scheme now totals 324, made up as follows:-

BREED.	NUMBER.
Brown Swiss	6
South Devon	1
Afrikander cross Sussex	6
Sussex	14
Jersey	1
Afrikander	296

Equines:

No census of equines was taken during the year. The emasculation, on a voluntary basis, of weedy and undesirable horse stallions, was continued. Two stallions were purchased by the Government for horse improvement purposes. The total number of stallions and donkey "Jacks" purchased since the Equine Improvement Scheme was initiated in 1936, is 67 and 43 respectively.

The policy hitherto adopted of issuing stallions and "Jacks" on loan is to be modified. In future, as many animals as can be accommodated in stud stables will serve the lowland areas. In the highlands animals will continue to be issued on loan to approved custodians.

Pigs:

The scheme inaugurated last report year of breeding and issuing pigs to approved African pig breeders, is making progress. The Tamworth-Large Black cross type is favoured.

Poultry:

The poultry improvement scheme started three years ago is proving a success. The favoured breeds are the Australasian Orpington, Rhode Island, Light Sussex and White Wyandotte. Over 250 birds have been distributed since the scheme began.

6. MARKETING OF ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS: AUCTION SALES SCHEME.

During the year, 3,423 head of cattle were sold under this scheme. This figure represents a decrease of 1,947 head of cattle over the previous year. Vide table appended:—

Report Year	No. of Sales	No. of Cattle Sold	Total Amount Realized £ s. d.	Average Prices £ s. d.
1938/39	10	257	1,560.14. 7.	6. 1. 5½.
1939/40	11	784	5,042.17. 6.	6. 6. 7¾.
1940/41	18	2,303	14,740.19. 6.	6. 8. 0¼.
1941/42	18	2,539	20,701. 6. 6.	8. 3. 0¾.
1942/43	25	5,370	52,844.19. 6.	9.16. 9.
1943/44	22	3,423	34,150.16. 6.	9.19. 6½.
	104	14,676	129,041.14. 1.	
Sheep Sold				
1942/43		672	1,083.10. 6.	1.12 3.
1943/44		216	390.19. 0.	1.17. 1½.
		888	1,474. 9. 6.	
Horses Sold				
1942/43		9	65. 2. 6.	7. 4. 8¾.
1943/44		15	122. 0. 0.	8. 2. 8.
		24	187. 2. 6.	

7. NEW LEGISLATION:

Proclamation No. 47 entitled "The Importation of Livestock (amendment) Proclamation, 1943."

Basutoland Government Notice No. 17 of 1943, authorising the free importation of Dagenam Sodium.

Proclamation No. 43 of 1944, entitled "The Basutoland Wool Packing, Marking, Marketing and Export Proclamation.

High Commissioner's Notice No. 172 of 1944, framed under Proclamation No. 43 of 1944.

High Commissioner's Notice No. 175 of 1944. amending the Public Service regulations.

8. STATISTICS:

	Sheep	Goats	Cattle	Horses	Mules	Donkeys	Fowls	Pigs
Doses Administered for worms	4,344,973	2,097,966	157	560	14	300	500	20
Castrations	16,884		2,087	715	10	200	200	15
Treated for external parasites	33,056	—	59	452	—	—	500	—
Exports	759	16	7,471	409	3	5	—	—
Imports	21,272	357	8,509	1,213	11	3,752	—	24
Wool Exported — lbs	8,751,107	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mohair Exported — lbs	—	1,445,083	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bones Exported — lbs	—	—	766,730	—	—	—	—	—
Hides & Skins exported	10,929		11,470	—	—	—	—	—
Inoculations:								
Anthrax	—	—	37,938	—	—	—	—	—
Quarter Evil	—	—	12,581	—	—	—	—	—
Anaplasmosis	—	—	1,997	—	—	—	—	—
Blue Tongue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—
Fowl Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,628	—
Horse-Sickness	—	—	—	944	—	—	—	—
Contagious Abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dosed for Fluke	53,520	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Services by Government Sires	—	—	2,775	979	—	174	—	—

SECTION IV.

ANTI-EROSION WORK.

The Lowland areas, comprising approximately one-third of the Territory and carrying two-thirds of the population, have been cultivated for many years and the soils are exhausted. The erosion in these areas is very severe, and the preventive measures to stabilise the soil, commenced in 1935, have been continued. These anti-erosion measures entail the construction of graded terrace banks, water disposal spillways and dams; using heavy tractor machinery and ox-drawn implements.

In the mountain areas, inaccessible to heavy machinery and equipment, anti-erosion work consists of the setting out of contour buffer grass strips. This work was commenced in 1942.

The progress made in the principal sections of the work is shown in the following schedule:-

Measure.	Prior to 1944	During 1944	Total to end of 1944
Area Terraced Acres	114,624.6	16,381.8	131,006.4
Length of Terrace constructed Yards.	12,096,344	1,683,700	13,780,044
No. of Dams Constructed.	137	12	149
No. of Trees planted.	756,472	50.560	807,032
Buffer Grass Strips, Acres.	17,155.2	24,674.7	41,829.9

Owing to the difficulty in obtaining spare parts, four of the eight tractors were cut of commission for periods of up to eleven months. These prolonged breakdowns adversely affected the output of work, and there was a reduction of some 2,000 acres in the area protected, as compared with last year.

I,369,999 cubic yards of earth were moved when constructing the 1,683,700 yards of terraces during the year.

The rate of progress made in the laying out of buffer grass strips in the mountain areas increased considerably, rising from 7,471 acres, covered last year, to 24,674 acres in the year under review.

Grass spillways and meadow strips have proved satisfactory for the disposal of flood water, and further forty-seven of these have been sodded or beaconed in advance of the work.

The capacity of the 12 dams constructed this year is 14,881, 500 gallons, and the capacity of all dams - 176,563,500.

Two of the new dams were constructed in vleis, with a capacity of four and five million gallons respectively. The remainder

are small stock dams of approximately half a million gallons each. The cost of the dams was £279-15-7d., or 5.5 pence per 1,000 gallons impounded.

The average cost of all heavy anti-erosion work was 14.2/-. per acre, excluding depreciation of plant, the salaries of the Anti-Erosion Officer and Agricultural and Livestock Officers, and over-head Administrative charges.

The average cost of buffer grass strips was 1.5/-. per acre, excluding over-head costs of supervision.

The rise in cost of the work per acre is due to the increase in the cost of living allowances paid to the labour engaged in the work and to the exceptionally wet conditions experienced, which adversely affected output.

SECTION V.

CONCLUSION.

1. FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Revenue.	Expenditure.
£785- 7-3d.	£50,588-10-5d.

Note:- Covering financial year ending 31st. March, 1944.

2. VISITS:

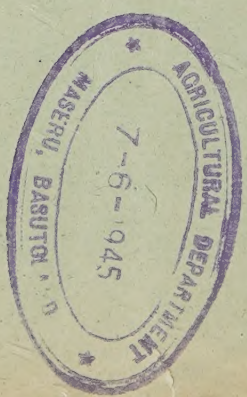
A large number of visitors from all over Africa have visited the Territory to inspect the anti-erosion work. Dr. Bennett, the Head of Soil Conservation Service in the United States of America, also inspected the work and expressed his satisfaction with the anti-erosion work carried out in Basutoland.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

I desire once again to record the appreciation of my staff to all those officials and non-officials alike who have assisted and co-operated so freely in our continued efforts to press forward with our agricultural schemes.

I personally wish to express my thanks to the staff of this Department for their unlimited energy and support.

W.G. Leckie.
Director of Agriculture.


AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT
MASERU, BASUTOLAND
7-6-1945